

Testimony against HB 191

I do not own a pit bull. I have never been a dog owner and I do not intend to become one, but I am opposed to this bill.

In July of last year, researchers from the University of Pennsylvania published a study in the international journal *Applied Animal Behaviour Science*, involving 6,000 dog owners. They reported that the top 5 aggressive dog breeds were (in order): Dachshund, Chihuahua, Jack Russell terrier, Akita, and Australian cattle dog.

In my experience even mutts can be vicious. So my first objection to this bill is that singling out pit bulls for eradication from our state will not prevent attacks by vicious dogs.

My main reason for opposing this proposed legislation is that existing Montana law 7-23-2109 allows county governing bodies to regulate, restrain, control, kill, or quarantine any vicious dog by adopting a local ordinance. If vicious dogs are a problem in a community, we already have a law in place that provides authority to deal with it. HB 191 is unnecessary legislative "overkill."

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